

* Doug - current Burn acres

Konza Prairie Monitor Status

Desk Statement:

EPA Region 7 and other EPA offices have communicated with the Kansas Department of Health & Environment (KDHE) regarding the termination of the air monitor in the Konza Prairie site. The monitor was removed at the request of the landowners (The Nature Conservancy). Technically, EPA Region 7 environmental professionals believe that two other monitors in the Kansas air monitoring system located in Topeka, Kan. and Cedar Bluffs, Kan., will continue to provide us with the coverage we need. Ozone monitors are placed primarily to gather information from urban areas to support EPA's primary mission in ozone monitoring is to protect human health and the environment. Historical data from the Topeka and Cedar Bluffs monitors have shown values that mirror the historical data from the Konza Prairie site.

We still believe that Kansas and EPA have a monitoring system in place that provides needed protections for Kansans. If citizens are concerned, the public has an opportunity for annual input into the effectiveness of the Kansas air monitoring network. The next opportunity will be sometime later this year.

Only if pressed -

The Konzaa Prairie monitor was part of the CASTNET monitoring program. CASTNET is dependent on contributions from many organizations including EPA, the National Park Service (NPS), Native American tribes, universities, and other government agencies. CASTNET provides long-term monitoring of air quality in rural areas to determine regional atmospheric trends used to evaluate the effectiveness of national and regional air pollution control programs. CASTNET operates more than 80 regional sites throughout the contiguous United States, Alaska, and Canada. Sites are located in areas where urban influences are minimal.

- 1) Public Notice when monitoring Network
- Plan is up for review
- Good Neighbor relations - property owner rights
- disc. underway to relocate
- KS public health monitoring has not been affected - meeting their regulatory require
- Monitors original intent was enviro. not compliance for public health.
- no requirement to Public notice

does not affect the State or EPA Mission to protect enviro.